



Serving Montana... Don Burrell

Service: Community Volunteer and
2010 ServeMontana Award Winner, Thompson Falls

Three Words that describe Don:

- ⚙ **Quiet**
- ⚙ **Resourceful**
- ⚙ **Helpful**

Don's Service Story: Don Burrell is a well-known, long-time resident of Thompson Falls. His most outstanding characteristic is his ever-present involvement in community activities. Don contributes his leadership, time, efforts, and money to assist many community organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Volunteer Transportation Network, the American Legion Post #52, the Thompson Falls Senior Center, Meals on Wheels and the Sanders County Council on Aging. In addition to receiving the 2010 ServeMontana Award for outstanding community service, he was named Thompson Falls senior of the year and received the prestigious Sanders County Community Service Award in 2008. A lifetime Montanan, and 27-year Sanders County resident, Don is husband to his wife Lorraine, for nearly 40 years and father to two adult children.



Don receiving the 2010 ServeMontana Award from Lieutenant Governor Bohlinger, First Lady Nancy Schweitzer and Commission Chair Chris Kolstad



Don is cheered on by Dick Wells and Lark Chadwick of the DAV, along with Commissioner Lieutenant Colonel Scott Smith (far left)

Making a Difference: Don enjoys being an active part of his community and helping others. He considers his commitment to his neighbors a full-time job. Several of his "on the job" activities are the direct result of getting something going, such as the food bank and the senior center. Don serves as an ad hoc transportation representative, helping his neighbors in need of transportation in his personal vehicle. He routinely takes Montana military veterans to and from their VA healthcare appointments free of charge. While he has acknowledged the difficulty meeting his fuel costs using his personal vehicle, he ensures no one



misses his or her doctor's appointments when there is no other way. When he was honored as Grand Marshal for the Thompson Falls Christmas on Main Street parade, Don said, "I am only giving back for the blessings God has given me!"



Don is "King of the Grill"



"Volunteerism" ...in Don's words: I was brought up to help others. I encourage everyone in the community to look around their area; there is always someone out there that needs some help, one way or another. It is important for youth to get involved. You can't expect to be paid for everything you do, just do it willingly and cheerfully. That way it comes from the heart and not the pocketbook.

The Governor's Office of Community Service and the Montana Commission on Community Service greatly appreciates Don's contribution to his community.



Don and his wife, Lorraine

Thank you to Dick Wells for letting us know about Don!

April 1, 2010